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California's Healthy Families Program Praises President Obama's Signature of State Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization

The legislation is expected to provide funding stability to the nation's largest SCHIP Program.

Sacramento, CA – Lesley Cummings, Executive Director of the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board issued the following statement in response to passage into law of a bill reauthorizing the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

We are thrilled that President Obama has signed into law the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009. We applaud the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate for their swift passage of the SCHIP reauthorization bill, which will keep nearly 900,000 California children insured and give thousands more access to health care to help them live strong, healthy lives.

SCHIP is the primary source of funding for the Healthy Families Program in California. California has the largest SCHIP enrollment in the country. The reauthorization, which provides states with funding for four and a half years, provides funding stability for the program. Due to the recent economic downturn the Healthy Families Program has experienced record-high monthly enrollment into the program. For every dollar in Healthy Families Program costs California receives .65 cents; the state puts up .35 cents.

The reauthorization will allow California children access to comprehensive health, dental and vision care that is so crucial for their healthy growth and development.

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About the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB):
MRMIB provides and promotes access to affordable coverage for comprehensive, high quality, cost effective healthcare services to improve the health of Californians. MRMIB administers the Healthy Families Program, Access for Infants and Mothers Program and the Major Risk Medical Insurance Program. More information is located at: www.mrmib.ca.gov.